

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
School Financial Services Team

Sparsity Aid Program
Statutory Reference: [s. 115.436, Wis. Stats.](#)

This categorical aid program was enacted into law as part of 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, the state's 2007-09 biennial budget. 2009 Act 28, the 2009-11 biennial budget bill made two changes to the sparsity aid program for 2009-10: a 3.5% reduction to the appropriation level, and making the per pupil aid amount \$300 for all eligible districts instead of the \$150/\$300 per pupil levels that existed in the 2008-09 program. For the 2009-10 school fiscal year, the appropriation amount is \$3,517,100.

The department is directed to pay sparsity aid to school districts that meet the following criteria:

1. School district membership is no more than 725 members.
2. District membership is less than 10 members per square mile of the district's geographic area.
3. At least 20 percent of school district's membership qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) under the National School Lunch Program.

District membership for purposes of this aid program is given the meaning of membership defined in s. 121.004(5) with additional references to s. 121.05 and s. 121.14, Wis., Stats. (Aid Membership).

The department will prorate the per pupil payments in a given year if funds are insufficient to fully fund all eligible pupils.

Payment date will be the third Monday of September each year. WUFAR Source Code: 694

[2009-10 Sparsity Aid Eligibility by District](#)

[2008-09 Sparsity Aid Eligibility by District](#)

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